



CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED 'SUNBELHO'

BOTANICAL/COMMERCIAL CLASSIFICATION

Calibrachoa sp.

VARIATAL DENOMINATION

5 cv. 'Sunbelho'

BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

The Petunia is a very popular plant that is used for flower bedding and potting in the summer season. There are only a few Calibrachoa having small flowers, currently classified as

10 Calibrachoa, such as 'SUNTORY SP-R' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9557), 'SUNBERUBU' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9754, SUNBELCHUPI' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,355) and 'SUNBELKI' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,558). These are of the semi-decumbent type, a medium plant height, abundant, branching, and a high resistance to heat and rain and

15 disease.

The new variety of Calibrachoa plant according to this invention originated from crossing with the Calibrachoa variety called '9W16' and the other Calibrachoa plant variety called '9W6'.

20 First of all, a crossing was conducted with the '9W16' variety as female parent and a Calibrachoa plant variety '9W6' as pollen parent in April 1998 at 863-1, Aza-Iketani, Omori-cho, Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan. From that crossing 50 seedlings were obtained and 5 seedlings were selected in view of their

25 semi-erect growth habit by the end of September 1999. These 5 seedlings were grown and were tested during potting and bedding trials. Only one plant was selected in September 2000. The selected plant was propagated by cutting and then grown in pot on trial in the green house and the field at 863-1, Aza-Iketani,

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Omori-cho, Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan from April to October 2001. The botanical characteristics of the finally selected plant were examined, using similar variety 'SUNBELCHUPI' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,355) for comparison. As a result, it was
5 concluded that this new Calibrachoa is distinguishable from any other variety, whose existence is known to us, and is uniform and stable in its characteristics. This new variety of Calibrachoa plant was named 'SUNBELHO'. The new variety reproduces true to type in successive generations of asexual
10 reproduction.

In the following description, the color information is in accordance with The R.H.S. Color Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England. A color chart based on The Japan Color Standard for Horticultural Plants (J.H.S. Color
15 Chart) is also added for reference.

The '9W16', used as female parent in the obtaining of this new variety 'SUNBELHO', is our bred variety previously filed in Japan. The main botanical characteristics of the '9W16' are as follows:

20 Plant:

Growth habit - Semi-decumbent.

Plant height - 18 cm.

Spreading area of plant - Slightly large.

Blooming period - April to late October in the southern

25 Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change throughout this period.

Stem:

Thickness - 2.8 mm.

Pubescence - Sparse.

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Branching - Abundant with the superior branching
propensity, especially secondary branches are.

Length of internode - 2.2 cm.

Leaf:

5 Shape - Semi-lanceolate.

Length - 5.2 cm.

Width - 2.2 cm.

Color - Dark yellow green (R.H.S 146A, J.H.S. 3508).

Thickness - 0.3 mm.

10 Pubescence - Sparse.

Leaf attaching angle to stem - Horizontal.

Flower:

Facing direction - Slantly upward.

Type - Single.

15 Shape - Funnel-shape with five-fissured limb.

Shape of petal tip - Slightly acute.

Waving of petal - Weak.

Lobation of petal - Shallow.

Diameter - 2.9 cm.

20 Color - Petal: Vivid red purple R.H.S. 74A, J.H.S. 9207).

Bottom color of corolla throat: light greenish yellow

(R.H.S. 5D, J.H.S. 2703). Outside color of corolla tube:

Bright greenish yellow (R.H.S. 5C, J.H.S. 2905).

Reproductive organs - 1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens.

25 Fertility - Fertile, but self-incompatible.

Peduncle - 1.3 mm in thickness, and 2.3 cm in length.

Physiological and ecological characteristics - High

resistance to cold, heat, rain and diseases, such as

powdery mildew. The resistance to heat and rain is very

30 strong.

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Blooming:

A bloom commonly lasts approximately 10 days on the plant. Pinching is not necessary to ensure continuous blooming; however, it does tend to enhance bloom production.

The '9W6', used as male parent in the obtaining of this new variety "SUNBELHO", is our bred variety and not filed in Japan nor any other country. '9W6' had been grown Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan. The main botanical characteristics of the '9W6' are as follows:

Plant:

Growth habit - Semi-erect.

Plant height - 26 cm.

Spreading area of plant - Slightly large.

Blooming period - April to late October in the southern Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change throughout this period.

Stem:

Thickness - 2.2 mm.

Pubescence - Normal.

Branching - Abundant with the superior branching propensity, especially secondary branches are.

Length of internode - 1.7 cm.

Leaf

Shape: Lanceolate.

Length - 4.8 cm.

Width - 1.3 cm.

Color - Dark yellow green (R.H.S. 146A, J.H.S. 3508).

Thickness - 0.3 mm.

Pubescence - Sparse.

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Leaf attaching angle to stem - Horizontal.

Flower:

Facing direction - Slantly upward.

Type - Single.

5 Shape - Funnel-shape, with five-fissured limb.

Shape of petal tip - Slightly acute.

Waving of petal - Weak.

Lobation of petal - Shallow.

Diameter - 3.1 cm.

10 Color - Petal: Vivid red purple (R.H.S. 61C, J.H.S. 9507).

Bottom color of corolla throat: Strong greenish yellow

(R.H.S. 4C, J.H.S. 2707). Outside color of corolla tube:

Pale greenish yellow (R.H.S. 5D, J.H.S. 2703).

Reproductive organs - 1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens.

15 Fertility - Fertile, but self-incompatible.

Peduncle - 1.2 mm. in thickness, and 1.6 cm in length.

Physiological and ecological characteristics - High

resistance to cold, heat, rain and diseases such as

powdery mildew. The resistance to heat and rain is very

20 strong.

Blooming:

A bloom commonly lasts approximately 10 days on the

plant. Pinching is not necessary to ensure continuous

blooming; however, it does tend to enhance bloom

25 production.

The 'SUNBELCHUPI', used as a comparison in the
obtaining of this new variety 'SUNBELHO' is our bred
variety previously filed in Japan (Seeds and Seedlings
Law Registration No. 7232) and U.S.A. (U.S. Plant Pat.

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No. 10,355). The main botanical characteristics of the
'SUNBELCHUPI' are as follows:

Plant:

Growth habit - Semi-decumbent.

5 Plant height - 16 cm.

Spreading area of the plant - Slightly large.

Blooming period - April to late October in the southern
Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change
throughout this period.

10 Stem:

Thickness - 2.4 mm.

Pubescence - Normal.

Branching - Abundant with the superior branching
propensity, especially secondary branches are.

15 Length of internode - 2.1 cm.

Leaf:

Shape - Lanceolate.

Length - 5.2 cm.

Width - 1.4 cm.

20 Color - Dark yellow green (R.H.S. 146A, J.H.S. 3508).

Thickness - 0.4 mm.

Pubescence - Sparse.

Leaf attaching angle to stem - Horizontal to slightly
droopy.

25 Flower:

Facing direction - Horizontal

Type - Single

Shape - Funnel-shape, with five-fissured limb.

Shape of petal tip - Medium

30 Waving of petal - Weak.

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Lobation of petal - Shallow.

Diameter - 2.9 cm.

Color - Petal: Vivid purplish red (R.H.S. 57C, J.H.S.

9707. Bottom color of corolla throat: Strong yellow
5 (R.H.S. 9A, J.H.S. 2513). Outside color of corolla tube:
Light greenish yellow (R.H.S. 5C, J.H.S. 2904).

Reproductive organs.- 1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens.

Fertility - Fertile, but self-incompatible.

Peduncle - 0.8 mm in thickness, and 2.0 cm in length.

10 Physiological and ecological characteristics - High
resistance to cold, heat, rain and diseases such as
powdery mildew. The resistance to heat and rain is very
strong.

Blooming:

15 A bloom commonly lasts approximately 10 days on the plant.
Pinching is not necessary to ensure continuous blooming;
however, it does tend to enhance bloom production.

SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

This new variety of Calibrachoa plant 'SUNBELHO' has a
20 semi-decumbent growth habit with abundant branching, with single
and very small white color flowers and forms a great profusion
of blooms with the whole plant remaining in bloom for a
considerable period of time. The plant is highly tolerant to
cold, rain, heat and diseases, particularly powdery mildew and
25 highly resistant to heat and rain.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

FIG. 1 is a photograph of flowers and leaves of the new
variety of Calibrachoa plant 'SUNBELHO'.

FIG. 2 is a photograph of a typical plant of the new
30 variety of Calibrachoa plant 'SUNBELHO' growing in a pot.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The botanical characteristics of the new and distinct variety of Calibrachoa plant named 'SUNBELHO' are as follows when observing during October at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, 5 young plants that had been reproduced by cuttings in June.

Plant:

Growth habit - Semi-decumbent.

Plant height - approximately 16 cm.

Spreading area of plant - approximately 35 cm.

10 Blooming period - April to late October in the southern Kanto area, Japan. The first flower would be observed approximately four weeks after planting. The plant shape does not change throughout this period.

Stem:

15 Thickness - approximately 2.3 mm.

Length - approximately 18 cm.

Color - near R.H.S. 144A.

Pubescence - Normal.

Branching - Abundant with the superior branching 20 propensity, especially secondary branches are.

Length of internode - approximately 2.6 cm.

Leaf:

Shape - Lanceolate.

Length - approximately 5.1 cm.

25 Width - approximately 1.6 cm.

Color - Upper - Dark yellow green (near R.H.S. 146A, J.H.S. 3508). Lower - near R.H.S. 146B.

Thickness - approximately 0.4 mm.

Pubescence - Sparse.

30 Apex - obtuse.

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Margin - entire.

Base Shape - cuneate.

Leaf attaching angle to stem - Horizontal to slightly
droopy.

5 Flower:

Facing direction - Slantly upward to horizontal.

Type - Single.

Bud shape - lenticular.

Bud length - approximately 2.0 cm.

10 Bud diameter - approximately 0.5 cm.

Bud color - Near R.H.S. 145C.

Shape - Funnel-shape, with five petals.

Apex shape of petal - truncate.

Petal margin - entire.

15 Shape of petal tip - Medium.

Waving of petal - Weak

Diameter of entire flower - approximately 3.0 cm.

Height of flower - approximately 3.0 cm.

20 Petals are fused at the base and the petal length from the
throat is approximately 1.5 cm, the petal width is
approximately 1.5 cm, the length of the corolla tube is
approximately 1.5 cm and the flower throat diameter is
approximately 0.7 cm.

25 Color - Petal (both upper the lower sides): White (near
R.H.S.155A, J.H.S. -01). Bottom color of corolla throat:
Brilliant greenish yellow (near R.H.S. 8A, J.H.S. 2704).
Inside color of corolla throat: near R.H.S. 8A with vein
near R.H.S. 145B. Outside color of corolla tube: Bright
greenish yellow (near R.H.S. 5C, J.H.S. 2905). Outside

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color of corolla throat is near R.H.S. 5C with vein near
R.H.S. 145B.

Fragrance - none.

Sepal

5 Number - 5; fused at base

Sepal length - Approximately 1.0 cm

Sepal width - Approximately 2.0 mm.

Apex shape - Acute

Margin - Entire

10 Color - Inside sepal color near R.H.S. 146A and outside
sepal color near R.H.S. 144A.

Reproductive organs - 1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens.

Fertility.-- Fertile, but self-incompatible.

Peduncle.-- approximately 0.8 mm in thickness, and

15 approximately 1.9 cm in length. Color is near R.H.S.
144A.

Physiological and ecological characteristics - High
resistance to cold, heat, rain and diseases such as
powdery mildew. The resistance to heat and rain is very
20 strong. The USDA Hardiness Zones of the instant variety
is No. 9.

Pest Resistance/Susceptibility - No serious damage by white
fly or aphids has been observed.

Blooming:

25 A bloom commonly lasts approximately 10 days on the plant.

Pinching is not necessary to ensure continuous blooming;
however, it does tend to enhance bloom production.

This new variety of Calibrachoa plant is most suitable for
flower bedding and potting, particularly in hanging pots
30 or planters, and is excellent for use as ground cover.

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Pinching of old blossoms will enhance the formation of
new blossoms.